

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

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R 221250Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3504

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 11538

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 11538 VICE 11530

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CBO

SQBJ; PARLIAMENT, THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT

REFS: A. PHNOM PENH 11505; B. PHNOM PENH 11218

1. SUMMARY. IN A SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT TOMORROW PRESIDENT LON MOL PLANS TO ANNOUNCE THE CONTINUATION OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL, THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE IN TAM RESHUFFLED CABINET, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S RIGHT TO EXERCISE SPECIAL POWERS UNDER THE "NATION IN DANGER" ACT. PARLIAMENT WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO APPLY SPECIAL, RAPID PROCEDURES TO ENACT IMPORTANT LAWS, PARTICULARLY IN THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DOMAINS, BUT WILL OTHERWISE REGAIN ITS LEGISLATIVE POWERS. THIS ARRANGEMENT GIVES PARLIAMENT A MORE IMPORTANT ROLE THAN IN TAM, CHENG HENG AND SIRIK MATAK DESIRED BUT WAS AGREED TO BY THE REPUBLICANS IN
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RETURN FOR RECEIPT OF A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF CABINET

PORTFOLIOS. END SUMMARY.

2. NOW THAT THERE IS AGREEMENT ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT (REF A), THE NEXT STEPS ON THE POLITICAL AGENDA ARE TO CONFIRM THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL AND DEFINE PARLIAMENT'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE EXECUTIVE. PRESIDENT LON NOL WILL DO THIS TOMORROW (OCT 23) IN AN ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT THE TEXT OF WHICH HAS JUST BEEN PROVIDED US. IN THIS SPEECH LON NOL:

A. ANNOUNCES THE DECISION TAKEN WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL AND AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE PRESIDENTS OF THE TWO CHAMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO (1) RETAIN THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL TO ASSIST HIM IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF HIS PRESIDENTIAL DUTIES, (2) ACCEPT THE RESHUFFLED GOVERNMENT UNDER PRIME MINISTER IN TAM AND (3) CONTINUE TO GIVE TO THIS GOVERNMENT THE SPECIAL POWERS SPECIFIED BY THE LAW PROCLAIMING THE NATION IN DANGER.

B. ASKS PARLIAMENT TO (1) ASSIST HIM IN CONDUCTING A PEOPLE'S WAR WHILE RESUMING ITS DUTIES UNDER THE CONSTITUTION, AND (2) ADOPT SPECIAL, RAPID PROCEDURES FOR THE PASSAGE OF CERTAIN IMPORTANT LAWS, PARTICULARLY IN THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SPHERE, WHEN ASKED TO DO SO BY THE EXECUTIVE.

3. THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE INFORMS US AND REPUBLICAN SECRETARY GENERAL OP KIM ANG CONFIRMS THAT THIS SPEECH WAS APPROVED BY PRIME MINISTER IN TAM, SOCIO-REPUBLICAN SECRETARY GENERAL HWNG TUN HAK AND OP KIM ANG THIS MORNING. COPIES WERE ALSO PROVIDED TO HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL MEMBERS SIRI MATAK AND CHENG HENG, WHO VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. THE DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE NOTED THAT ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT TAN KIM HUON WAS THE PRINCIPAL AUTHOR OF THE PARAGRAPHS DESCRIBING THE PARLIAMENT'S DUTIES.

4. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WILL PERMIT PARLIAMENT TO RESUME A FAIR DEGREE OF ACTIVITY. (THE CONFIDENTIAL

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LAW PROCLAIMING THE NATION IN DANGER, AS REPORTED REF B PARA 4, AUTHORIZES THE GOVERNMENT TO RULE BY DECREE ONLY IN MATTERS CONCERNING INFORMATION MEDIA, PUBLIC GATHERINGS, AND SEARCH AND SEIZURE, AND THESE DECREES MUST BE RATIFIED BY PARLIAMENT WITHIN THREE MONTHS.) HOW WORKABLE THE SPECIAL PROCEDURES WILL BE IN PRACTICE REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
ENDERS

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